

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF HERNANDO COUNTY, FLORIDA
RESOLUTION NO. 12-013

WHEREAS, our nation's future relies on a high-quality public education system that prepares all students for college, careers, citizenship and lifelong learning, and strengthens the nation's social and economic well-being; and

WHEREAS, our nation's school systems have been spending growing amounts of time, money and energy on high-stakes standardized testing, in which student performance on tests is used to make major decisions affecting individual students, educators and schools; and

WHEREAS, the over-reliance on high-stakes standardized testing in state and federal accountability systems is affecting educational quality in U.S. public schools by supplanting educators' efforts to focus on the broad range of learning experiences to promote the innovation, creativity, problem solving, collaboration, critical thinking and deep subject-matter knowledge that are critical for students to thrive in a democracy and an increasingly global society and economy; and

WHEREAS, it is widely recognized that standardized testing is singular and somewhat unreliable measure of both student learning and educator effectiveness; and

WHEREAS, the over-emphasis on standardized testing has created considerable collateral damage in many schools, including narrowing the curriculum, teaching to the test, reducing love of learning, pushing students out of school, driving excellent teachers out of the profession, and undermining school climate; and

WHEREAS, high-stakes standardized testing has had negative effects for students from all backgrounds, and especially for low-income students, English language learners, children of color, and those with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the culture and structure of the systems in which students learn must change in order to foster school experiences that promote joy in learning, depth of thought and breadth of knowledge for students; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the School Board of Hernando County, Florida calls on Governor Scott, the Florida Department of Education and the state legislature to reexamine public school accountability systems in the State of Florida, and to develop a system based on multiple forms of assessment which accurately reflects the broad range of student learning, and is used to support students and improve schools; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the School Board of Hernando County, Florida, calls on the U.S. Congress and Administration to overhaul the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, currently known as the "No Child Left Behind Act," reduce the testing mandates, promote multiple forms of evidence of student learning and school quality.

Adopted this 5th day of June, 2012.

Attest:

Cynthia Moore, Chairperson
The School Board of Hernando County

Superintendent Bryan A. Blavatt
The School Board of Hernando County